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THE KENYON COLLEGIAN

GAMBIER, OHIO

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2009

12 PAGES

Dr. Tracy Schermer retires

BY SARAH QUELLER
News Editor

Dr. Tracy Schermer, formerly the College physician, retired over winter break after serving the College for 28 years.

Schermer, who is currently visiting his grandchildren in Colorado, declined comment on his retirement.

Dean of Students Tammy Gocial said Schermer plans to return to the Native American Reservation where he spent his sabbatical last year. "I believe he had a great experience in Montana and felt very appreciated by the people there," she said. "He is able to help them address acute and chronic diseases which have long gone unaddressed."

Why did he retire?

Though Schermer officially left the College over winter break, Gocial said that Schermer first mentioned the possibility of retiring earlier this fall, but did not discuss it seriously until early-December.

"I wouldn't say it was totally sudden," College President S. Georgia Nugent said, "but that he would decide to do it so quickly—that was a bit of a surprise."

Gocial said that Schermer had indicated to her that "students are different now than they were when he began as the physician at Kenyon."

"The doctor-patient relationship has kind of changed," Nugent said. "When [Schermer] entered practice, the physician was a lot more autonomous. Today, who of us does not go on the Web and diagnose themselves? I think that can be kind of frustrating for physicians who are not as accustomed to that."

Students have "different expectations and different needs related to their medical care," Gocial added.

Schermer's legacy

"Dr. Schermer is a dedicated and committed physician who always wanted the best for our students," Gocial said. "He worked tirelessly at all hours of the day and night to be sure that students had access to the best medical care he could provide."

Vice President for Student Life Jonathan Meyers '10 said he has heard many stories of Schermer helping students "in all hours of the night."

"He trained the volunteers who worked with the College Township Fire Department and rode with the squad on almost every serious medical run they made," Gocial said.

"Schermer was always there when anyone ever needed him, be it a student, faculty member or anyone that even walked into his office," said volunteer firefighter Jarrod Sowell '10. "I sense his presence on the Kenyon campus will be missed."

"People have told me they are alive today because Dr. Schermer held them to very high expectations regarding their behavior and the management of their addictions," Gocial said. "That is a wonderful legacy over many years of dedicated service."

Gocial said she heard from students that "they very much appreciated the time and energy [Schermer] gave to his job."

"[Schermer] embodies the spirit of genuine care and commitment that students agree is a hallmark of Kenyon," she said.

"I have the utmost respect for Dr. Schermer and his dedication to Kenyon College students over the years," Nurse Practitioner and Director of Health Services Kimber Cullers said. "I consider him a friend, colleague and mentor."

"Students have reacted to Dr. Schermer's retirement with surprise and some concern," Cullers said. "Many students and their families have had a long-

term relationship with him in managing oftentimes complex illnesses."

"The Kenyon community has to thank him for his service," Student Council President Shrochis Karki '09 said. He was "very involved here."

Nugent said her "strongest thoughts about [Schermer] stem from when we had emergencies or tragedies here. There is nobody you would want at your side better than Tracy Schermer."

Schermer will leave a "strong legacy," Karki said. He was the "Kenyon ideal of the people's person."

Student opinions

"The first week of school, I managed to pull my hamstring," Caitlin Starling '12 said. Starling said Schermer diagnosed her hamstring injury, prescribed ibuprofen and physical therapy at the KAC and taught her about treating her injury. "Since then, when I'd go in, he'd treat me as knowing about whatever he was talking about unless I showed otherwise, in which case he'd teach me about it," she said.

Not all students had the same personal experiences with Schermer, however. Tess Hardcastle '10 said she was "kind of relieved" to learn of his retirement. "I felt that there were times when he pushed the limits of what was normal and it made me uncomfortable," she said.

"I kind of felt that he was on his way out of the College," she said.

Paul Reed '10 said that when he requested medicine for a cold, Schermer "proceeded to ask me some very inappropriate questions about my dad's alcoholic history and then asked me if I would attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings."

Cross-Country athlete Sarah Dougherty '11, however, said that Dr. Schermer helped her set up an MRI appointment in

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Students face drug charges after raid

BY LEAH FINN
Staff Writer

Kenyon students Nicholas D'Ambrosia '10 and Stephen Winick '10 were arrested along with three other local men in a drug raid at New Apartments C6, their place of residence, on Dec. 8.

"About seven police raided our apartment at about 8:30 p.m.," D'Ambrosia said. "Pretty much the scariest moment of my life."

The raid was the culmination of an investigation by the office of Knox County Sheriff David Barber, which had been going on for six to eight weeks, according to Director of Campus Safety Bob Hooper. "We work closely with the sheriff's department," Hooper said. "It was their investigation ... and they decided it was time to make their move."

According to Barber as quoted in an article in the Zanesville Times Recorder on Dec. 17, a search warrant was obtained on Dec. 8 and detectives from his office served out the warrant that evening. Once they entered the apartment, detectives found drug paraphernalia, cash and a quantity of marijuana

and cocaine, said the article.

"My understanding is that the sheriff's office had a confidential informant who was buying drugs on campus, and in the course of that got names of people," Dean of Students Tammy Gocial said. When asked about the drugs involved, Gocial said that to her knowledge the police found "mostly marijuana and some cocaine."

Hooper, who was present at the arrests in order to inform the accused students of the College's judicial process, could not confirm any details about what was found in the apartment on Dec. 8. "It was a different scenario than what we get normally, just with paraphernalia and those kinds of things," Hooper said.

D'Ambrosia and Winick were arrested on felony charges of permitting drug abuse, according to a Mount Vernon News article (Five arrested at drug raid at Kenyon, Dec. 16, 2008). The Mount Vernon News (Eight indicted by grand jury, Jan. 9, 2009) also said that D'Ambrosia is also accused of trafficking in marijuana for allegedly

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Greeks host rush events to gain members

BY RACHEL KELLER
Staff Writer

Paintball and poker, steak dinners and scavenger hunts. For ten days this week, Kenyon's seven fraternities, four sororities and one co-ed society will be busy hosting rush activities for students.

Since 1852, Kenyon Greek organizations have sponsored Rush Week, a period that allows students the chance to meet members of the organizations and decide whether or not to join.

For Ian Hoagland '12, participating in Rush Week is not only about being

"[Rush Week] is based on the mentality that an organization shouldn't need the appeal of alcohol or a party to bring people in..."

-Alexandra Roland

involved with Kenyon's Greek tradition, but also about following family tradition. Of the six members of his family who are Kenyon alumni, five have been members of Delta Kappa Epsilon. Hoagland's cousin, Andrew Hoagland '09

is also a Delta Kappa Epsilon brother and has encouraged Ian to rush.

"I like the guys in the frat and it will be sharing an experience with my family," Hoagland said. "Instead of just being cousins, we'll also be brothers."

Each organization elects pledge chairs who plan alcohol-free Rush Week activities. According to Director of Student Activities Brent Turner, having these types of events is a good way for organizations to enact their policies of personal and social responsibility.

"[Rush Week] is based on the mentality that an organization shouldn't need the appeal of alcohol or a party to bring people in and that people join organizations based more on a true con-

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AVI adds panini area, grain bar, composed salad area

BY DESIREE VODOUNON
Staff Writer

AVI food services welcomed students back from winter break with a new sign at the entrance of Peirce dining hall. The sign displays AVI's recent editions, such as a panini area and a grain bar that includes hummus and bean dip.

AVI Resident Director Damon Remillard, who is new to the AVI staff this year, was formerly the manager of Food Life, a Chicago-based multi-option food court style restaurant. As director of AVI, Remillard uses his experience in the restaurant industry to provide Kenyon students with more food options. "On a semester basis, we want to introduce new foods to the menu" with the intention of "keep[ing] things fresh and build[ing] on that foundation," he said.

AVI employees have also made changes to the service area of the dining hall by switching the locations of the Mongolian bar and home-style options, as well as shifting the sandwich location in order to make space for a composed salad area. The composed salad area is meant to give students a greater "variety of

different fresh vegetables," said Cindy Elliot, general manager for AVI. "The grain bar is to offer lighter fare vegetarian items," said Remillard. According to Remillard, the modifications have been successful.

Elliot said the changes were made in response to long lines. "Certain days of the week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, around noon it is congested the most," she said. Acknowledging this fact, AVI relocated certain foods, such as the dessert area, in order to "alleviate the congestion and allow for better flow for students," she said.

Students have noticed shorter lines and different menu options. Since the changes made over break, John Honey-Fitzgerald '12 said he has not waited in long lines for food.

"You can get food quicker and there is more variety," said James Asimes '11.

"I like the panini bar—it is pretty sweet," said Devin Ensing '12.

Some students, however, wish that the grab-and-go option in Gund dining hall would introduce more variety in the coming semester. Jake Jordan '12 suggested not only a wider range of food at

lunch time, but the possibility of opening Gund in the morning for a continental breakfast.

Remillard said students can expect more introductions to the menu later in the year. "During spring, we'll be getting more local produce," he said. Still, he stressed the importance of student responses. "We are always open to student opinions to make it a better place—that's the goal," he said.



JAY GALBRAITH



Above: A new composed salad area was created to introduce different vegetable options from the salad bar, at left.

Admissions builds room in atrium for accessible interviews

BY MARIKA GARLAND
Staff Writer

According to Interim Vice President for Library and Information Services Ron Griggs, the College is completing construction on a wheelchair-accessible admissions meeting room in the library atrium. This room will allow representatives from the Office of Admissions to "interview student and families with mobility issues," said Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jennifer

Delahunty.

Before the creation of this room, there was no meeting room accessible to students in wheelchairs because Ransom Hall lacks ramps and elevators. Prospective students in wheelchairs would, therefore, often have interviews in the library. In one case over the summer, a disabled student had to be carried into Ransom, which was "felt to be demeaning and inappropriate on our part," said President S. Georgia Nugent.

According to Griggs, the new

admissions room is only a temporary solution. Eventually, the College hopes to make Ransom Hall accessible. As Ransom is on the Historic Registry, however, changing the footprint of the building is not allowed, according to Coordinator of Disability Services Erin Salva '79. Vertical access is possible but, according to Nugent, will cost nearly \$500,000.

The inaccessibility of the Office of Admissions also brings attention to the College's other accessibility issues. "If you're on

two feet and you're able-bodied, Kenyon is a difficult place to get around," said Salva, "so the challenges are going to be huge for anyone who comes here in a chair."

Erin McKinney '12, who was recently on crutches for a week due to a sprained ankle, said that if she had not been allowed to drive her car, "everything would have been impossible."

"We have made a lot of progress in the past ten years," said Salva, citing Peirce's renovation as an example. "Every year, we have at least three or four-barrier removal projects that are reasonable."

Salva and the Accessibility Review Committee are continually looking at ways to make the College more accessible which, according to Salva, could include resurfacing Middle Path "to look like the exposed aggregate walkways that lead up to the library right now."

Salva acknowledges that any changes to Middle Path could upset students and alumni. "If you talk about paving paradise, you're going to feel the walls start to rumble and the alumni come jumping down your throat," she said.

Many students are against altering what they consider to be an important part of the College. Morgan Azinger '12 said that

she would not want Middle Path to be resurfaced. "I can't explain why," she said, "but it wouldn't look right."

Other students, however, have less of an attachment to Middle Path as it is. "The obsession with Middle Path is overly sentimental," said McKinney.

Elizabeth McLees '12 even referred to Middle Path as a "marketing strategy, a way for Kenyon to distinguish itself from other small liberal arts schools," she said. "In four years, no one would remember that it used to be gravel."

Salva, a Kenyon graduate, said that she believes that resurfacing Middle Path would be a positive change to the campus. If it can help to increase accessibility and safety, "then it needs to be done," she said. "It's not an issue of nostalgia."

Kenyon will have its first real test of accessibility next year when, according to Delahunty, the College will have its first student in a wheelchair or scooter, who applied early decision and will enroll in the fall.

The College plans to do everything possible to "ensure that this student has every possible opportunity that other students have," said Delahunty.

"We want to make this community as open as possible to faculty, students and visitors," said Salva.



WESLEY KEYSER

The new space in Olin Library will accommodate handicapped students' needs.

Kenyon welcomes 5 mid-year transfer students

BY ELIZABETH BERNSTEIN
Staff Writer

As Kenyon students begin their second semester, five new faces will join Kenyon's campus. According to Jennifer Delahunty, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, this year Kenyon admitted six transfer students and enrolled five. Four of these students have joined the freshmen class and one, the sophomore class.

According to Veronica Haudt, Assistant Director of Admissions, the transfer applicant rate has been unaffected by the unstable economy. "We enrolled pretty much the same number of transfer students for this Spring 2009 semester as we did last year at the Spring 2008 semester," she said, "I was surprised to see that, since I figured the current economy concerns might hold back the transfers numbers a bit."

According to Haudt the economy also did not affect the types of students who applied to Kenyon. "Students seem to transfer to Kenyon for a variety of reasons," Haudt said, "Some students thought about coming to Kenyon as freshmen but opted to go elsewhere, when they realized they did in fact want to be at Kenyon after all. Some students thought they would be okay in a big school and then realized they'd be happier at a smaller school where they can get to know their professors and have discussion-based classes."

According to Erin Ciarimboli, Director of New Student Orientation and Community Programs, the transfer student orientation went smoothly. "Our orientation for transfer students in the spring semester is significantly shorter than

Orientation in the fall," she said, "Most transfer students have already been through an Orientation program at their previous school, so we feel pretty comfortable shortening things. However, we do feel that it's important to let them know about Kenyon's policies and culture, and help them in the transition to life at Kenyon. We try to make our transfer orientation program as personalized and informational as possible."

According to Erica Bellman '12, who transferred here from Cornell University, all of the transfer students are very excited about starting their first semester at Kenyon. Bellman agreed with Haudt and said that her decision to transfer to Kenyon was influenced by her desire to have a more personal learning experience. She is excited to have small classes and really get to know her professors.

Another transfer student, Mark Bosse '12, who transferred to Kenyon from City University of New York Honors Program, said his decision to come to Kenyon was not hard to make. Kenyon had always been a school he wanted to attend.

According to Ciarimboli many of the transfer students have come to Kenyon with an interest in English, though some are still undecided about their majors. All of the students come from the Midwest or Northeast.

In addition to transfer students, Kenyon is also welcoming back students who left early in their first semester. Whitten Montgomery '12 said that while she enjoyed her time at home spent doing various community service projects she is, "very excited to be back at Kenyon. I considered applying to other schools, but ultimately decided that Kenyon was the school I wanted to attend."

Rush: non-alcoholic events planned

From page 1

nection to the members and the values that organization holds than because they threw the best party during Rush Week," Greek Council President Alexandra Roland '09 said.

Roland believes that the alcohol-free policy pushes organizations to embrace more than just the social aspect of their group.

"I think it is important to have [alcohol-free] rush so people don't feel pressured to drink," Zeta Alpha Pi President Katherine Guerard '10 said. "You lose your inhibitions when you drink and you might not be presenting yourself in the best way. No one should feel pressured to drink during the whole rushing process."

Not being allowed to serve alcohol inspired Phi Kappa Sigma President Henry Jackson '11 and his fraternity to add creative events to their Rush Week agenda.

"Ultimately the [alcohol-free] policy is a good thing,"

Jackson said. "It keeps us from falling back on throwing a bunch of run-of-the-mill parties."

The week's events stem both from innovation and tradition. Nu Iota Alpha President Leah Rogers '09 said that she looks forward to the sorority's yearly board game night but is also excited about what she calls "Inner Child Night," a night filled with cartoons and coloring books.

Creative rush endeavors as listed in the Rush Booklet also include Delta Tau Delta's skeet shooting BBQ event, the Archon Society's speed-dating night and Theta Delta Phi's bake-off.

Many organizations have also planned off-campus events. Psi Upsilon plans to take rushes to an Ohio State University hockey game Zeta Alpha Pi will drive rushes to a laser tag venue in Columbus.

"My advice is to go to as many events as you can," Epsilon Delta Mu member Taylor Woods '11 said. "Just be yourself and give as

many organizations a chance as you have time for."

"With Rush Week, we hope to find a great group of new members," Archon Society Rush Chair Cooper Fleishman '09 said. "We're hoping for creative ideas and positive attitudes. We're excited to make new friends."

"I want to pledge so I can meet new people and next year do what they did and meet all of the first-years," Hoagland said.

Students interesting in joining an organization must submit bid forms between 9:00 a.m. Monday, Jan. 26 and 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27. After these forms are turned in, students are invited to pledge the organizations. Bids are returned to students between 7:00 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26 and 12:00 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28 and are to be turned in by 4:00 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30.

Pledging begins Sunday, Feb. 1 and pledges become official members during an initiation ceremony later in the year.



SASHA HOLSTON

Leah Rogers, president of Nu Iota Alpha sorority, decorates a tank top with her sorority's shield during a rush event.

Village Record

Jan. 15, 2009 – Jan. 21, 2009

- Jan. 16, 9:33 a.m. – Water damage at Peirce Hall due to broken water pipes.
- Jan. 17, 2:38 a.m. – Theft of items from room at Hanna Hall—report will be filed with the sheriff's office.
- Jan. 17, 7:23 a.m. – Water spraying in basement of Day Care Center due to frozen pipes.
- Jan 17, 10:08 a.m. – Damage to rooms at Samuel Mather due to broken water pipes. Maintenance notified.
- Jan. 17, 7:31 p.m. – Medical call regarding ill student at Gund Hall. Nurse Practitioner notified. Student transported by squad to the hospital.
- Jan. 17, 11:14 p.m. – Vandalism – broken mirror at Lewis Hall. Maintenance notified.
- Jan. 18, 3:48 p.m. – Non-injury vehicle accident on Gaskin Avenue. Sheriff's deputy took a report.

Student Council

- Student Council approved a new head of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and elected Matthew Sargent as the new Junior Class President.
- This semester, Student Council will work to amend its constitution to better suit the present time.
- The Safety and Security Committee discussed the removal of the remote lot and the relocation of its cars to parking lots on campus. This will likely occur the weekend of Jan. 24. In the future, the Manning and Leonard parking lots will also be removed.
- Student Council discussed the need for a reevaluation of parking at the College, which will likely include a student survey.
- The Student Life Committee has received the results of the student survey on the Health Center. Student Council is reviewing these results and will soon make them available to students.

Raid: students dismissed from Kenyon, case to be heard

From page 1

selling the drug to a confidential informant working for the Knox County Sheriff's Office. According to Knox County Prosecutor John Thatcher, as quoted in the article, "three alleged sales occurred in November and December in a Gambier apartment."

On the evening of Dec. 8, a Kenyon student who wishes to remain anonymous called Campus Safety to report a suspicious older man standing outside of her place of residence in New Apartments. "[He] was just kind of lingering around New [Apartments] on his cell phone talking, and I thought it was very suspicious," the student said. "About fifteen minutes after [Campus Safety] came I looked out my window to see if anything had happened, and I saw about four students run—like, sprinting—into their apartment building."

According to the source, they appeared to be running into the C Block apartments. "I later found out they were running from the police, or from investigators," the student said. "It's very ambiguous as to whether this man that I saw was a [narcotics officer], or whether he was trying to buy drugs from these people."

Since the arrests, D'Ambrosia has been dismissed from the College and has moved back to his hometown of Hamden, Connecticut, where he enrolled as a full-time student at a local university. Writing from his hometown, D'Ambrosia seemed optimistic about the case.

"The detectives told me that I'm facing more lenient punishment because I was very cooperative and calm," he said. "[Gocial] and Kenyon College were pretty helpful—besides dismissing me from Kenyon and giving me no credit for the semester."

Winick was suspended from Kenyon for two semesters and told that he could reapply at the end of that period with some stipulations, he said. He declined any additional comment on the story.

A Kenyon student wishing to remain anonymous who lived in C6 until late October 2008 said that he was aware of drugs being used in the apartment, but knew nothing of any drug sales or trafficking. "From what I knew, [the use of cocaine] was not going on in the house," the student said. He and one other former C6 resident moved out of the apartment that fall for a number of personal reasons, one of which was discomfort with the drug use, the student said.

When asked about his knowledge of the investigation, the student said he had no idea it was going on. "We had heard rumors

that there were video cameras outside the apartment, and we thought that was complete bull," the student said. "I was as surprised as everyone else. I was like, wow, I'm glad I moved out."

The student was a friend of Winick's, and testified for him at the judicial hearing Winick faced with the College.

"Steve [Winick] is a good guy; he was just kind of a bystander," the student said. "I know that he was getting his work done. I know that he had a lot of support from faculty. There were a lot of people that testified for him."

D'Ambrosia and Winick faced the judicial process at the College as detailed in the Kenyon Student Handbook, including a hearing in which students have a right to defend themselves and call witnesses. "When an incident occurs on our campus that involves potential violations of the handbook, the College can be involved judicially," Judicial Affairs Coordinator Samantha Hughes said. "Even though in this particular situation the sheriff did everything, Campus Safety was there, and the report was written."

The 2008-2009 Student Handbook details that violations of the Ohio law prohibiting the use or sale of drugs or drug paraphernalia will result in disciplinary action by the College, including possible penalties of suspension or dismissal. According to Hughes, the policy was last reviewed in the summer of 2008. "Dean Gocial added specifically within the drug policy that if a student is found distributing [drugs], they will be dismissed," Hughes said.

Also arrested in the drug raid were Muskingum College students Nicholas Fanning and Joseph Miller, for felony charges of trafficking in marijuana, and Dutch Bess, for misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia. Fanning is a former Kenyon student who matriculated with the class of 2008 and transferred to Muskingum in the fall of that year.

"Obviously there was a former student involved as well," Gocial said, referring to Fanning. "My understanding is that he and his friends were the suppliers to our students."

Gocial and Hughes were not at liberty to discuss the details of Fanning's departure from Kenyon after the 2006-2007 school year or his transfer to Muskingum. Fanning declined comment on the story.

The case will be heard by a Knox County Grand Jury in the coming months. According to Hooper and Hughes, more information about the incident will be released as the case moves further through the court system.

Schermer: new healthcare model adopted

From page 1

Columbus and set up her insurance so that the procedure was free. "He served a good purpose for athletic injuries," she said.

"Personally speaking, my experience with him was good," Sowell said. "He was always willing to teach. He was always fun to be around and he always had a smile on his face."

Moving forward: New healthcare model

Since Schermer's retirement, the College has adopted a new health care model that relies upon two full-time nurse practitioners and one doctor, who can be met by appointment two days per week.

Cullers will be joined by another nurse practitioner, who has yet to be hired, and will continue to work with nurses Amy Dyer and Pam Buirley, according to Gocial. Dr. Amy Murnen, sister of Professor of Psychology Sarah Murnen, has been hired as a temporary physician who will be available for appointments two afternoons each week, Gocial said.

According to Karki, this model is common among health services, and most of Kenyon's peer colleges already use this model. Kenyon was one of few institutions that had not yet adopted this model.

Additionally, Nugent said the Center is "doing away with the notion of closing during the lunch hour," Nugent said. "That just doesn't seem like an appropriate choice."

Mark Luskus '10 went to the Health Center Wednesday, Jan. 21 and said he "thought it went really well."

"I talked to one of the nurses and she seemed really happy now about how things were working at the Health Center," he said. "Everything seems like it's going a lot more smoothly now."

The fate of Metcalf

Even after Schermer's retirement, Nurse Practitioner Rebecca Metcalf said

she is not returning to the Health Center "because I am committed to continuing the work I have started with the Wellness Initiative."

Nugent said that Schermer's inability to work with Metcalf was "never mentioned overtly" as a reason for his retirement. "I can't speculate on that," she said.

Karki said that Schermer's decision may have been influenced by his refusal to work with Metcalf, but he said it was ultimately a "big decision."

The results are in...

Following Schermer's refusal to sign Metcalf under his practicing license, Student Council began addressing issues with the Health Center, according to Karki.

The surveys mirrored a survey that Student Council and the Feminist Union of Greater Gambier (FUGG) administered in 2005. Then, the results suggested that the Health Center was specifically lacking for women's health, and Metcalf was hired in response to these results, according to Karki.

When Metcalf stopped practicing this year, it was like "moving back two years," Karki said.

This year, 368 students responded to the survey. Karki said Schermer's retirement now "presents a very good opportunity to look at health services comprehensively" and "to look forward." Of the 368 respondents, 77 percent were female.

According to Gocial, the survey indicated that "a significant number of students would like the Health Center to provide more health education to students, and 58 percent of the students believed that the nurse practitioner would be the best person to provide this education."

The survey results also suggested that the "most significant concerns students have are the wait time to be seen by a medical provider, and confidentiality," according to Gocial. She said students are also concerned about the Center's hours of operation,

health education, "being treated as partners in their own health care" and "having access to a female healthcare practitioner."

The surveys also showed non-athletes wanted further access to trainers, especially for club sports; students requested health education; one-third of the respondents said they did not know students could have prescriptions delivered; and 40 percent or more wanted information on mental health management, nutrition and stress management, according to Meyers.

Karki said that students' responses indicated that students wanted more accessibility to the Health Center, especially on weekends. In 2005, students also requested weekend hours, but throughout the semester only 14 students came on Saturdays all semester, according to Meyers. Karki said that setting up appointments with Murnen may alleviate the waits.

Metcalf is "collaborating with other colleagues across campus to develop proactive programming to address these issues with students," Gocial said.

Karki said the surveys revealed a lot of grievances and indicated a need to reestablish a relationship between students and the Health Center.

"The biggest problem was the perception among students that Dr. Schermer was not approachable," Meyers said.

Cullers, who Meyers said is "well-acquainted with Kenyon and its needs," said she has reviewed the surveys and she is "taking all comments very seriously in terms of what the students want."

"I realize that time is important to students," Cullers said, "and having an additional nurse practitioner will allow us the opportunity to schedule appointments as well as accommodating walk-in visits."

"Ideally, we will not be making any significant changes until the fall because we want to be sure that we are facilitating a smooth transition to the nurse practitioner model," Gocial said.

Kenyon witnesses historic day

BY AUGUST STEIGMEYER
News Assistant

The inauguration of President Barack Obama on Jan. 20 was an important event for many Kenyon students. The inauguration "clearly signifies a progress in America," said Janae Peters '10, who attended the event in Washington, D.C. "I didn't want to imagine not being a part of it," Peters said. "Barack Obama is an incredible man, and he has excited our nation and given hope to very many people." It was Peters' excitement over Obama's potential leadership abilities that ultimately convinced her to witness the inauguration first hand.

Jack Graham '12, who also attended the swearing in of the 44th president, wanted to see, in person, "an inauguration of the most powerful person in—possibly—the world." Graham said that the election of the first non-white U.S. president is a historical event that he believes will mean something to people "across the United States who previously thought that they couldn't do something because of what they looked like or where they came from." Obama proves that anything can be overcome, Graham said.

Due to large crowds filling the grounds of the National Mall, Peters

said that she decided to see the parade rather than risk not seeing anything at the Inauguration itself. "I was more interested in seeing the parade than being unsuccessful at seeing the swearing-in with my own eyes," Peters said, "so, I stood on Pennsylvania Avenue, between 9th and 10th Streets."

President S. Georgia Nugent said that there was some value in being present on the Mall itself. There is "something ineffable about simply being present at a historical event," Nugent said. She said that being in the crowd, however, would be less of an educational experience and "a little bit more like a mosh pit." Nugent said that attending the inauguration, for some people, would not be just a trip. "The appropriate metaphor would be pilgrimage," she said. "You've made that pilgrimage as something that would mark your life."

After Obama was sworn in, Nugent held an inaugural celebration in the Peirce Pub, which encompassed complimentary snacks, soft drinks and half-price libations as well as a re-viewing of the oath portion of the ceremony and Obama's subsequent speech.

Georgina Leslie '12, who attended the party, said she was impressed by Obama's speech at the ceremony. "As

usual, he actually faced problems and was actually willing to speak about them and say that maybe America is not as great as we would like to believe, so we have to deal with the problems and make it that great."

Taylor Somers '12 said that he was not very impressed with the ceremony or Obama's words. "Obama's speech was as empty and vacuous as all his previous speeches," Somers said, "and it was followed by an excessively goofy benediction that rhymed inappropriately." Somers was referring to the last speaker at the event, Rev. Joseph Lowery.

"I thought [the speech] was really good, I really liked it a lot," said Alice Lawson '11 after re-watching the broadcast in Peirce Pub. "I thought there was a lot of anticipation for it, but I think all of his speeches are good."

Rachel Israel '11 watched the inauguration live but wanted to see it again on the Pub's big screen. "I think one of the most moving parts about it, besides the speech, was just seeing all those millions of people there to see him speak and hearing the constant cheering, it was very moving," she said.

Lawson and Israel said they were not just looking forward to the next four years, but the next eight.

Day of Dialogue honors MLK Jr. Day

BY RICHARD WYLDE
Features Editor

All seats were taken, and students, faculty and community members spilled out into the aisles in Brandi Recital Hall on Monday, Jan. 19 for Kenyon College's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Dialogue. Conceived by an organizing committee of professors in cooperation with the office of President S. Georgia Nugent, the five-hour collection of discussion panels and art performances was designed to look at the concept of race and the many questions it raises, all in light of the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Assistant Professor of English Ivonne M. Garcia, a member of the organizing committee, stressed the importance of the need for discussion. Last year, the College sponsored a Diversity Awareness week which, according to Garcia, lacked a discussion about race.



Kenyon's Step Team performs at the Day of Dialogue

RICHARD WYLDE

For the past nine years, Garcia said, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Multicultural Affairs Chris Kennerly has been in charge of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day breakfast and activities, so the organizing committee worked closely with him to update the event. "[The Day of Dialogue] has

never happened before at Kenyon. I think it was fantastic. It makes me incredibly proud for the community," Garcia said.

The offerings of the day included opening remarks by Nugent, a dramatic reading of King's "I have a dream" speech followed by a student panel looking at the speech in a

modern context, and a faculty panel that looked at the question "Are we post-race in the age of Obama?" There were also performances by the Kenyon College Step Team and Gospel Choir and an excerpt from "The Meeting," a play by Jeff Stetson about an imagined meeting between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

The faculty panel seemed to agree that the election of the country's first African-American President did not signify a "post-racial" America—an America in which skin color, ethnicity and all their implications are no longer a matter of concern—and talked about the inherent problems in trying to define race.

"It is not the idea of being beyond race, but understanding the significance and differences (between races)," said Assistant Professor of Psychology and organizing committee member Irene Lopez

during her time on the floor.

According to Garcia, the event was even more successful than expected. "The overall level of enthusiasm and excitement that we all showed for each other, especially for the student panel and performances, was contagious," she said. "We were also happy to see how Public Affairs created a website for the event that was terrific, so we definitely felt supported at all levels."

Garcia echoes the sentiments of many in her desire for this to become an annual occurrence. While changes would be made, the fundamental nature of the event would stay intact. "We haven't talked about [race] enough," Lopez said. "The concept is changing to become socio-economical."

Added Ted Mason, professor of English, "We will continue to struggle with what difference means."

-Additional reporting by Lindsay Means

Sustainability at Kenyon is a community effort

BY ALLISON BURKET
Staff Writer

For Township Trustee Doug McLarnan, "What about Bob?" is a question that epitomizes his interest in the Community Sustainability Group's involvement in housing availability—will his friend Bob, who used to fix bicycles down by the "Pizza Hut" apartments, be able to find housing in Gambier today? Or what about junior faculty members, nostalgic Kenyon alumni, or McLarnan's own daughter, all of whom play an important role in the diversity and vitality of Gambier?

"The theory is that you don't want to affect the next generation in a negative way with what you're doing," said McLarnan on why he became interested in the Community Sustainability Group, a two-year-old advisory group made up of community members, College administrators, faculty and students. Formally known as the Sustainability Workgroup, the group aims to facilitate community-wide discussions and make recommendations about those issues pertinent to sustaining Gambier economically, socially and environmentally over the long run.

"I was looking for some way to look a little bit closer with that idea, into the community. I'm not trying to change the world, I'm just trying to keep this world here," McLarnan said.

Accommodating the various demands for housing is one central component of maintaining Gambier's character and diversity, members of the group said, as well as Kenyon's educational mission. "Kenyon is the kind of place where the more faculty live in the area, the more they are able to participate in events outside the classroom," Advisor to the President Jesse Matz, who chairs the group, said. "And of course that kind of participation in activities outside the classroom is crucial to Kenyon's mission."

Last spring, the group began conducting research on available lots in the Village and College Township and surveyed residents, College employees,

alumni and students on their level of satisfaction with the housing options in Gambier. While there is widespread interest in trying to live in the Village, when those who had rented or bought were asked if they found a sufficient number and type of properties from which to choose, 75 percent answered "no," citing issues like insufficient availability or high prices as the reason for their answer.

The College's expansion has put pressure on a limited stock of local housing, while rising prices make it increasingly difficult for both junior faculty and recent graduates or children of community members to find places to live, members of the group explained. Meanwhile, many alumni consider moving to Gambier after retirement and are willing to pay more for housing than a current faculty member, contributing to the rise in prices.

"As someone who is currently looking for a house to rent or buy for the upcoming school year, I've found the options in Gambier to be severely limited and overpriced," one faculty member commented in the survey. "While the median price may have been in the \$150 thousands, houses currently on the market in Gambier are at more than \$225 thousand, and although they're not selling, the prices remain too high for a starting junior faculty member to purchase."

The survey, the results of which were presented this fall by group members Tom Stamp, College historian and member of the Village Council, and Sam Kling '09, found that community members and College employees are most interested in seeing an increase in single-family homes available for individual ownership, as well as attached townhouses for individual and condominium ownership and single-family houses for condominium ownership.

The group ultimately hopes to make recommendations to the Village Council, the Township Trustees, the zoning board and the College about ways it can promote affordable housing to meet the needs of the community. Recommendations may involve identifying ways to change the zoning laws or identifying certain

buildable lots and soliciting for their development. Other potential actions could include the formation of a housing authority, McLarnan said, which could work with the support of the College to bring in grants and private development money.

"Any actions that we do take would have to take place over the long term," Matz said. "We need to do a lot of research into buildable lots, what areas are available for more building and which would be best. Then there's the perennial question of resources, and we're going to have to get creative in finding ways to appropriately develop new dwellings."

The ideal degree of involvement of the College in local housing is also unclear. While the College could buy houses once they become available, it "doesn't necessarily want to get involved in the business of being a landlord," according to Stamp, after Kenyon has reduced its ownership of local houses over the years for reasons of financial and administrative cost. However, "most of the land that would be available to housing is owned by the College," Stamp said.

Concerns about the proper use of local land and pressures on housing in the town are nothing new, Matz said. "For a long time, people have wanted to make sure that we use local lands properly, that lands aren't exploited or damaged and that we keep the place the wonderful, beautiful place it is."

The group's formal creation came in 2007 following informal meetings in 2005. Their desire to be more proactive about the direction of the community came in response to the growing development of subdivisions in the area and the accompanying loss of farmlands, the formation of College and Township development master plans and the reaction to the loss of the Campus Auto and Fuel gas station during the fall of 2007.

"From my perspective, [the group] became more important when we lost the gas station," McLarnan said. "When that happens, I have to go elsewhere to get my diesel, to get my car fixed, to get my lawn

mower fixed, and that takes a big element out of the community." The group, lead at the time by Director of the Rural Life Center Howard Sacks, one of the primary players in the group's founding, worked to come up with ways for the station to be economically viable. It reopened under its new proprietor, Jim Lee, last fall.

Since then, the group has engaged the College and the community about the vitality of the downtown, promoting bicycle use and supporting local businesses, "culling and disseminating information about what the community desires," according to Director of Art Facilities Planning and member of the group Ruth Woehr.

When it comes to supporting business in the downtown, frustrations over the

College's leasing requirements, the overwhelming presence of College offices in the downtown and the challenges of trying to stay economically viable year-round have been important topics of discussion for the group. "People are excited and dedicated and frustrated," Matz said. "And I think that's one of the things that makes the group so important. It's a good forum for airing our hopes and dreams and frustrations and worries."

Kling also emphasized the group's role as a facilitator of diverse and sometimes conflicting interests, including those between students and the community. "There's a little bit of tension brewing beneath the surface, but I feel like because we have institutions like the Sustainability Workgroup, we can all come together," he said. "And as long as you're all nice to each other, you sort of develop a bond, because you all love the community."

Another part of building those connections is creating common spaces to provide more opportunities for interaction between community members, students and faculty. In particular, members of the group began looking for potential sites for a new playground in downtown

Gambier, allowing for more opportunities for interactions between community families and students.

In addition, the group has been discussing increasing the numbers of covered bike racks on campus, as well as brainstorming ways of promoting pedestrian safety and reducing car use on campus.

Overall, McLarnan, who hopes to see an increased number of "loafers" and an increasing amount of "loitering" as a result of the workgroup's efforts, feels that the group's activities are an important avenue for building existing interest in the

I'm not trying to change the world, I'm just trying to keep this world here

-Jesse Matz

community, which becomes increasingly important in the face of wider economic insecurity.

"The last two presidents have made a real effort to engage with the community beyond the hill," Stamp said. He also pointed to growing student interest in sustainability and community issues. "And I believe it has been very good for the College, and good for the Village," he said.

Stamp and McLarnan both cite the activities of the Rural Life Center, programs such as the Off-Campus Activities Programs in Psychology (OAPP) and the vitality brought to the downtown with the return of the Village Inn as other important recent developments in College-community involvement.

"In interesting ways, the economic crisis is an opportunity for a rural community like ours, to reconfirm the values and interest that make a community like ours a place that you'd want to live in," Matz said. "Once things slow down, you're forced to fall back on the things that are supposed to be our priorities."

Matz encouraged anyone with interest in the group's activities, questions about the housing survey or ideas for the group to contact him at matzj@kenyon.edu.



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Office: Room 314 Peirce Tower
Mailing address: *The Kenyon Collegian*, Student Activities Center, Gambier, OH 43022.

Business address: P.O. Box 832, Gambier, OH, 43022.

E-mail address: collegian@kenyon.edu

Internet address: www.kenyoncollegian.com

Telephone number: (740) 427-5338

Facsimile: (740) 427-5339

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The Kenyon Collegian reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length and clarity. The *Collegian* cannot accept anonymous or pseudonymous letters. Letters must be signed by individuals, not organizations, and must be 200 words or less. Letters must also be received no later than the Tuesday prior to publication. *The Kenyon Collegian* prints as many letters as possible each week subject to space, interest and appropriateness. Members of the editorial board reserve the right to reject any submission. The views expressed in the paper do not necessarily reflect the views of Kenyon College.

Opinion: you should hear mine

BY WILL DAGGER
Guest Columnist

It is my personal belief that you should all hear my opinions, which leads me to my next opinion. It is my opinion that the snow on the ground, when mixed with the dirt and gravel of Middle Path, looks just like chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream. It is my other opinion that those weird bowls in Peirce remind me of the test-taking scene in “Men in Black” when Will Smith distinguishes himself from the group. I was approached by the Collegian to write about “key issues relevant in the lives of Kenyon students today.” It was my opinion that I didn’t see what issues could be more relevant and key. If those are indeed just mounds of chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream out there on Middle Path, how did they get there? Are they for us? They asked me if I had thoughts on something like Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It was my opinion to ask, “So, the Will Smith thing wasn’t good enough?”

I looked at what other people had said on all-student email archives for a while, hoping to find something that I could reword and then say again with

synonyms, but I ended up just getting distracted by all the other all-stus whose subject lines contained all capital letters and multiple question marks. I couldn’t help it, they just, like, jumped out at me.

Just as I was starting to wonder why some of the all-stus I hadn’t even clicked on had turned purple, worrying that maybe I was being set up for something (“It’s very interesting, Mr. Dagger, that you claim to have known nothing about the refrigerator for sale, when one quick look at your Mozilla Firefox history will confirm ...”), it hit me. The best way to prove that you’re smart and “free-thinking” here at Kenyon is to find things that are basically and fundamentally good, and then bash them—it’s like when people trash The Beatles or Harry Potter.

So when people attack Martin Luther King Jr. Day, saying it shouldn’t be a holiday, or attack Coming Out Day, or so on, it’s not bigoted or close-minded—it’s the opposite! Everybody is so open-minded here, the only way to beat them at the “who’s more open” game is by defending close-mindedness. Here, I’ll give it a shot—notice how subtly yet effectively I can appear smarter and more free-thinking than you:

Being healthy: a better you campaign

BY JOSHUA SAMUELS
Guest Columnist

Despite my already packed schedule, I jumped at the chance when asked to write a piece for the *Collegian*. I immediately began thinking about current, long-standing issues in my life and what I would write about them if given the chance. The topic of health popped up at the top of my list. As a student who is taking five classes for the maximum allowed credit, has extra-curricular obligations to spare and strives toward career ambitions rivaling that of my very indirect and far removed mentor, Oprah, I have recently become obsessed with how to keep my precarious situation delicately balanced. I am almost certain that I am not alone in this quest for a balanced yet fulfilling life. Kenyon students, like the faculty who teach them, are highly and uniquely ambitious.

Therefore, as a diehard believer in the power of synergy, I propose to the Kenyon and greater Gambier/Mount Vernon community a collective resolution for the new year. Too often I, like many others, have set resolutions that were either unrealistically high or too insignificant to be taken seriously (usually out of failure from the previous year). As a result my resolutions were too daunting in theory or too easily dismissed to be effectively executed throughout the year. I believe that in a collective fashion, with one another’s public awareness and support, we can hope to become successful at a very important goal: an improved state of health. Though we are three weeks into the new year, a year-end resolution of better health is still attainable. Notice, that I did not state a pledge to lose “X” amount of pounds, nor did I state a campus-wide commitment to end smoking (although that would be lovely).

Unfortunately, it seems that the primary reason for health resolutions having such a high rate of failure is not lack of trying. Rather, it seems to be rooted in an incorrect perception of health. After

many observations, it seems fairly safe to say that young people in particular tend to perceive “being healthy” as related to how attractive someone looks externally. This is not entirely wrong, nor is it entirely of our own doing. Parental ideals and the media’s calculated marginalization of beauty and health are just two of the many outside factors. Nevertheless, it is the young individual who allows these external notions to affect him or her in a certain way. I admit that even I am victim to certain beauty and health ideals. Regardless, while the outside can be a good indicator of someone’s internal physiological state, too often in my observations, that seems not to be the case. For example, I have seen on numerous occasions at home and on campus some very attractive people slowly destroying themselves from the inside out. While his/her skin, hair, and smile may point to a person who is “being healthy,” that same individual’s actions indicate far worse is occurring internally.

Rendezvous to the Cove and Old Kenyon (or, God forbid, an excursion to the Milk Cartons, which are really just a step up from the Foxhole) are commonplace for Kenyon students on the weekend. The simple fact is, however, if you stay up enjoying a late night at the Village Inn, you’ll have to waste time and energy recovering from a hangover. This may not seem like such a big deal (hey! you get to sleep in, right?), but in the long run, irretrievable hours of your weekend are used up when they could be devoted to putting that extra detail into an assignment for the A. So what will it be? An earlier night on the weekend for the A on a paper or a late night of fun for the B? You decide. Everything has a chain effect.

Now, that’s not to say that one should not have fun on the weekends—I have to decompress too—nor is that to say that one cannot go to the VI without getting drunk, but as my girl, Madonna, says, “sometimes fun is overrated.” Fun in place of getting your work done is not fun at all, because when the last shot is drained

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, while it may seem like a perfectly fine thing that you’d have to be ridiculous to criticize, is actually just the liberal media shoving their revisionist history down our throats. But the real question that everyone else but me is afraid to address is this: Yes, Martin Luther King was great and all, but why are we naming the day after his son, MLK Jr.? We don’t call it Columbus Jr. Day, do we? George Washington Jr. Day? Thanksgiving Jr. Day? MLK Jr., psbhh. What’d that guy ever do? I’m not even sure MLK Original even named his kid Martin. I think it was, like, Sampson. Something weird. Come to think of it, Martin Luther was a hero, sure, but I’m not so sure we should be calling him “King.” Seems a little much. Gah, it’s so ridiculous, on so many levels, but when you try to bring it up, all you get is blank stares or snickering. Isn’t that the whole point of MLK Jr. Day—even though I hate it and think it’s really dumb and stuff—to keep these conversations going? Well I want to talk about this! I want to talk about Easter Jr.! Why can’t you people think outside the box, like Will Smith did? Did they flash that memory thing in your eyes? Gah, everyone is so brainwashed, except for me.

and you’ve taken your last stumble down Middle Path, the work remains.

Now, before anyone becomes too up in arms over this article (though it may be too late already), I would like to state that this article is not about a hierarchy of moral pedestals nor is it about the community at large taking on a resolution of puritanical restrictions on the self. Instead, I am trying to open up a new way of looking at health. Repeated substance abuse of varying sorts does take a toll on the body’s organs, however slow acting these detrimental effects appear to be. This includes, but is not limited to, alcohol, marijuana, cigarettes and food (yes, food). Sexual habits are also often abused.

To me, to be healthy is to be aware—aware of the complexity and completeness that constitutes a multi-faceted individual. Furthermore, to be aware is to be honest—honest about the various strengths and weaknesses within each facet of the individual. Finally, to be honest is to be open to change—open to changing the way one looks at life, that is, to start thinking long-term. Think beyond the encapsulated semesters of each year of your college experience. Think about what you do here, the good and the bad. Regardless of whether or not you choose to accept it, your actions—even those of seemingly minute consequence—will have a great effect on who you become beyond Kenyon. True health is determined by how conscious you are of the chain reaction your decisions have on your life as a whole, and then having the power to choose those actions that will lead you to becoming a better you.

My hope is that together, we can 1) change the way young people approach and perceive health, 2) examine how health and all its facets affect every aspect of our lives, 3) explore the numerous ways to be a better you in every facet of a person’s being and 4) bring a holistic level of consciousness about health to the forefront of people’s minds. So I say, with much love and dedication, here’s to a better you!

Kenyon’s New Year’s Resolution

Though we’ve only been back on campus for a few weeks, already we are seeing changes in almost every aspect of Kenyon’s life. The Health Center has responded to female students’ requests for a greater concern for women’s health issues on campus by hiring two new nurse practitioners after Dr. Tracy Schermer’s retirement (“Dr. Tracy Schermer retires” Jan. 22, 2009); members of the Kenyon community are attempting to engage in open discussions of race (“Day of Dialogue honors MLK Jr. Day” Jan. 22, 2009); and the Office of Admissions is making accommodations for more accessible interview spaces (“Admissions builds room in atrium for accessible interviews” Jan. 22, 2009). Clearly, Kenyon has made some New Year’s resolutions that it isn’t breaking. Still, we at the *Collegian* have some resolutions that Kenyon might consider.

As the new healthcare model will be under scrutiny, simply for the sake of it being a new change to the campus, we hope that the Health Center will consider every student’s feedback. We should look back to the original survey, conducted in 2005, and recognize how important its results were. The responses prompted the hiring of Nurse Practitioner Rebecca Metcalf, and today, it is equally as important to truly evaluate and value students’ needs.

The Day of Dialogue hosted on Martin Luther King Jr. Day was inspiring in how it brought so many people from diverse backgrounds together. We hope that the College continues uniting the Kenyon community to discuss these delicate issues. The Day of Dialogue was a good start, but the dialogue needs to continue, be it through College initiatives or frank dorm room discussions.

We thank the Office of Admissions for making it easier for our prospective fellow students to have private interviews in a new space in the library atrium. The symbolism of an inaccessible admissions building is inescapable, and this first step represents a movement toward a College that is accessible to all who want to learn inside its gates. This year, Kenyon should continue its commitment to accessibility, and should prioritize projects that make Kenyon not only an institution of higher learning, but a community that emphasizes equality.

Already, 2009 has ushered in significant and positive changes to Kenyon’s campus; this year, the College should resolve to continue to pursue actions that enhance students’ wellbeing through healthcare, accessibility and thought-provoking conversation.

staff editorial

Residence halls get second-semester makeovers

BY LAURA GOEHRKE
Staff Writer

Coming back to campus from a long winter break, Kenyon students have much to look forward to: catching up with friends, starting their workout regimens again at the KAC and eating tomato tortellini from the Market. But one of the things that most students can barely wait to see is—you guessed it: their new door decorations and residence themes for the spring semester! Just admit it; even though snowflake cutouts pasted on walls or outlines of countries with your name as the capital may seem somewhat cheesy, we all secretly smile every time we pass by them on our way to class or the bathroom down the hall, and would feel a bit empty inside if the Community Advisors (CAs) did not take the time to create cool themes for our living quarters.

I took a walking tour of most of the dorms to experience firsthand the variety of themes throughout the campus, and though some themes were a bit lacking in the effort category, I can say for sure that most of them were impressive and creative. One of the first to really catch my eye was a *Flintstones* theme in Lower Gund, whose CA is Mohammad Hamad '10. Throughout the whole first floor, there are intricate, colorful and even some three-dimensional cutouts of rock formations that represent buildings at Kenyon, a huge dinosaur and life-size char-

acters such as Fred and Wilma Flintstone, made completely from scratch by Hamad himself.

Hamad thought of the theme while he was working at a camp this past summer—"The Flintstones" was his favorite cartoon as

tours will come through Gund to show off the colorfully adorned walls.

So where do the Community Advisors get the actual supplies to make their door and hall themes? First of all, they are given a budget

Nickelodeon characters like Patty Mayonnaise and Helga Patacki, and the "Smurf Turf," located on the second floor of McBride. Other door decorations included more plain designs such as index cards with sparkly dots around the

Bushnell had just recently been updated with a less typical theme than ones seen in the past—math equations. At first I thought they were random derivatives and functions, but then a resident noticed my confusion and pointed out that each equation, when solved, corresponded with those students' room numbers.

I ended my dorm walk at Old Kenyon, my own residence, and made it up to the third floor to one of the most arbitrary yet fun door themes—different types of cheese. Travis Cook '10, the Old Kenyon CA who made up this new theme for the semester, shed some light on his thought process: "I wanted to use something that there were large amounts of, and the first category that came to mind was beer ... but I didn't think that was appropriate coming from Res Life. So then I switched to wine, which brought me to cheese." Cook's fall semester theme was also a big hit: mustaches. He originally wanted to do Civil War generals for each of his residents, but quickly found out there were not enough. Then he realized what makes the generals so great—their facial hair—and he decided to go with the mustache theme. I asked him whether or not he thinks his residents are fond of the door decorations he makes, to which he responded, "Well, they haven't been ripped down by anyone, not even the drunk students on the weekends, so I like to think of that as a sign of appreciation, and I take it as a compliment."



In Old Kenyon, students' doors are decorated with records.

CLINT MONTEITH

a kid. When asked about the extra time and effort he put into his dorm theme, he said, "I love to go above and beyond with everything I do. Also, the dorms are like mazes and are jokingly seen sometimes as jail cells, so I knew by putting up a lot of decorations throughout the floor, it would make the students happier about their living environments." Hamad even incorporated Kenyon facts and references in the scheme, and he mentioned that

of \$100 at the beginning of the semester to use strictly for conceiving of and creating decorations. In terms of guidelines, Assistant Director of Residential Life Bryan Shelangoski said, "We ask our CAs to be creative, appropriate and to stay within their budget, but the rest is basically up to them."

As I continued walking through first-year dorms, I saw a plethora of different themes, including superheroes, old school

name (I'm still not sure about exact theme of that one) and optical illusion pictures, which would be fun to look at walking by, especially coming back at 3:00 a.m. after a Friday night out.

I then headed back down to South Quad, where Leonard was decked out in Dr. Seuss characters, rhymes and trees from "The Lorax," and across Middle Path to see colorful CDs plastered on each door as the name tags in Hanna.

STUDENTS

Faith Bell '12

Will Dagger '10 and Will Arbery '11

Gambier Grillin'



Vs

Jamie Keller
Associate Professor of Chemistry

Deborah Blundell
Administrative Assistant in the Office of Public Affairs

FAC/STAFF



Totals so far:
Students: 4
Faculty: 3

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| What movie-musical recently became the all-time highest grossing movie in the UK? | High School Musical 3. | Mamma Mia! | I don't know. | Mamma Mia! | Mamma Mia! |
| What is the world's largest airline company? | British Airlines. | Trick question. Man was never meant to leave the ground. | United. | Virgin. | Delta |
| What country has the world's longest coastline? | China. | Canada. | Norway | Africa. | Canada |
| What breed of dog is Snoopy from the comic strip Peanuts? | Beagle. | Beagle. | Beagle. | Basset. | A beagle |
| What is the only zodiac sign that is represented by an inanimate object? | I don't know. | Aquarius. | Libra. | Sagittarius. | Libra (scales) |
| Total Correct | One. | Three. | Two. | One. | |

BY RICHARD WYLDE

Kenyon students document historical inauguration





PHOTOS COURTESY OF HANNAH WITHERS, LAUREN ROSE AND COLLEEN PSOMAS



LAYOUT BY BOB DORFF AND KALI GREFF





Pieces from Nickard and Reitzenstein's show "Wunderkammern" in Olin Art Gallery.

BEN MCMILLAN

Science meets art in Olin show

Nickard and Reitzenstein open gallery exhibition

BY MATT COLBURN
Staff Writer

Before there were museums, before the Smithsonian divided artifacts of the natural, artistic and scientific worlds into separate categories, there were "wonder rooms." Wonder rooms were collections of disparate artifacts from different disciplines—tortoise shells beside Dürer paintings beside scientific tools and religious relics. There was no organizing principle; the objects instead represented humanity's wonder at the things around them, the vastness of the universe.

University of Buffalo Professors Gary Nickard and Reinhard Reitzenstein's exhibit in Olin Art Gallery, entitled "Wunderkammern," the name for the tradition of wonder rooms, brings wonder rooms back into the present, inviting us to reconsider our divisions of the universe and evoking awe and wonder at its vastness.

Wonder rooms "were a reaction to discovery of the New World," Nickard said, paraphrasing a theory from Lorence Welker's *Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonders*, adding that artifacts from the new world "[challenged] our little jewel box universe. Our minds were blown." Wonder

rooms also had a "personal sense of collecting; it was intimate."

The artists' modern wonder room combines natural phenomena with scientific artifacts, featuring pinecones, birds' nests and cast bronze wasps' nests, beehives and branches, a wooden hand, dead dragonflies, other insects constructed from dead specimens and mixed media—paint, fabric and thread—and one deer's head with curled doll's hair in its antlers, alongside antique physics instruments: stroboscopes, gas-powered x-ray tubes, brass telescopes, Helmholtz resonators, batteries, spectroscopes and one flame spectrometer. These obsolete instruments are from the "analog world," Nickard said.

"The exhibition is critical of digital disembodiment, a plea for analog," he said. "We need analog because of the way we conceive of the world through our senses." The digital world is "once removed. It is simulation as opposed to direct experience."

The analog world, however, "is still mediated. We can never experience the subatomic world directly." But while the digital world is synthetic, the analog "is a metaphor for something, an illusion of a direct relationship," he said. "The illusion is still synthetic, but the analog is easier to understand. The digital world has no illusion."

"[The exhibit] asks questions, asks us to consider the wonder of the position we stand in, in awe of the universe."

- Gary Nickard

microscopic and the vastness of the universe "makes us realize how small [our lives are]. And then you get into questions of significance."

The exhibit "doesn't take positions," he said. "It asks questions, asks us to consider the wonder of the position we stand in, in awe of the universe. It's not an artist's job to provide answers.

The exhibit also features black negative photographs from atom smashers.

"Man is an animal that stands between an abyss of smallness and greatness," Nickard said. Man's position between the

We ask questions."

But does this modern wonder room accomplish its artists' intention? Does this combination of artifacts evoke wonder at the natural world and man's place in the universe? An uninformed viewer can tell that natural elements have been juxtaposed with scientific instruments that are clearly outdated. But what sensory response does this juxtaposition evoke?

Ultimately, the artists do accomplish their intention. The natural elements remind us of the mysteries of the world around us, and the scientific instruments are a symbol for how we interact with that world. In some ways we realize that our methods of trying to understand the universe will always be outdated or insufficient. We are but atoms to the universe and our experience of the atomic world will always be mediated by machines, whether analog or

digital. We can split particles and dissect bugs, but no matter how much we learn about the universe, it will still be intrinsically enigmatic, as will our existence in it, our significance or the purpose of our small lives. Science advances our knowledge, but it does not clear up the mystery.

"Wunderkammern" will be on display from Jan. 22 to Feb. 28, and the artists will give a talk on the exhibition on Thursday, Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m. The exhibit's scientific instruments are on loan from Kenyon Professor Emeritus of Physics Thomas Greenslade, Jr. The show also features a white flower necklace that is a family heirloom of Kenyon student Aspen Golann '10. The mixed media insects and doll-haired deer's head are the work of Madeline Courtney, shop supervisor and technician for the art department.

Dance and Drama

Spring Preview

"Eurydice" by Sarah Ruhl

Thursday, Feb. 5, 8:00 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 6, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 7, 7:00 p.m.

Bolton Theater

"Oleanna" by David Mamet

Thursday, Feb. 19, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 21, 8:00 p.m.

Hill Theater

"Frozen" by Bryony Lavery

Friday, Feb. 20, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 22, 8:00 p.m.

Hill Theater

"Much Ado About Nothing" by William Shakespeare

Thursday, April 2, 8:00 p.m.

Friday, April 3, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 4, 8:00 p.m.

Bolton Theater

Spring Dance Concert

Thursday, April 30, 8:00 p.m.

Friday, May 1, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 2, 8:00 p.m.

Bolton Theater

Write for the *Collegian*
e-mail collegian@kenyon.edu

Comedy troupes tickle Kenyon's funny bone

BY BEN MCMILLAN
Staff Writer

Although many are aware of individual comedy groups on campus, the variety and diversity of the groups are less well-known. Drawing from different academic disciplines on campus, the main three groups, Fools on the Hill, Two Drink Minimum and Beyond Therapy, bring together performers and writers to entertain the student body and the Gambier community.

The assortment of groups allows students interested in performing to have a greater choice in their specific brand of comedy. Fools on the Hill focus their skills on improvisation, Two Drink Minimum's members perform stand-up comedy and Beyond Therapy performs written sketches, which may arguably be the most mainstream form of comedy, with television shows past and present like "Mad TV" and "Saturday Night Live" relying on its format.

My investigation into the comedy of Kenyon began by visiting a Fools on the Hill practice. Somewhat curiously, Fools on the Hill practice in much the same way as they perform a show. After mulling over basic meeting information, they simply began playing improvisation games, many of which I was familiar with from their previous shows. After leaving, I realized that from the moment I walked into the practice



The Fools on the Hill hone their improvisational skills in Philomathesian Hall.

BEN MCMILLAN

room to the moment I left, the Fools never stopped joking with each other. The creative energy and chemistry between members of the group are evident in their performances and are vital to the spirit of their group. One distinct difference of Fools on the Hill from the other comedy groups is the lack of written material.

While some may consider this a hindrance, this type of comedy often seems to lead to unplanned and humorous moments, even to the group's members.

Later, I sat down with Max Reisman '09, the president of Two

Drink Minimum.

"Most people interested in comedy generally have some background in performance, but many don't have any experience with stand-up comedy alone," said

Reisman, who had only performed stand-up on three separate occasions before joining Two Drink Minimum. "The venues are pretty limited," Reisman said. "We're investigating places in Mount Vernon who have open mic nights, but we haven't been too lucky so far."

Discussing the different aspects of stand-up comedy, Reisman, an English major, stressed the importance of each member of the group bringing his or her own background and story to the stage. "Politics was off-limits when I joined, though," said Reisman, adding that Kenyon's mostly homogeneous political community

makes it difficult to write a joke that wouldn't fall flat. However, while drawing on multiple wide-ranging topics, members each add their own style to a show. Having said this, Reisman added

"Each group does things others can't do."

- Ian McCarthy '11

that there are basic skills that stand-up comedians should possess. "Writing really hones your skills, but talking in front of people also helps," said Reisman, who is also a tour guide for the Office of Admissions, which allows him to constantly bounce ideas off of people.

That evening, I discussed Beyond Therapy with Chris Bobby '11 and the group's president, Ian McCarthy '11. Emphasizing the group nature of Beyond Therapy, McCarthy described the group as one big family, adding that everyone brings something different to the creative process. While Two

Drink Minimum also prepares written material for their shows, Beyond Therapy's process is, by nature, a much more shared experience.

"It really is a collaborative experience," McCarthy said. The writing process is varied and somewhat informal. While certain individual members may write scripts on their own and present them to the group, Bobby said that most material is developed and written during group meetings, where everyone helps discuss ideas. This creative process allows the group to occasionally have a subtle running joke throughout their shows. "Unfortunately, we're sort of known as the shock group on campus," said McCarthy, referencing a show from before he joined the group in which fake semen was thrown on audience members. The group was subsequently kicked out of the Hill Theater.

"I like to think we're more bizarre and interesting than shocking," added McCarthy. "Above all, we like to have fun and make sure that our audience can sense that," Bobby said, adding that their group was fairly informal overall.

The fact that each group performs a different type of comedy greatly enhances the comedy on campus. "Each group does things others can't do," McCarthy said. Although each comedy group brings something different to the Kenyon community, they all share similar aspects. While all groups share the simple similarity of auditioning processes, every member that I talked with emphasized the importance of the chemistry between members and the feeling of closeness. "We're like one big family," said McCarthy.

For more information on the comedy groups, contact Alex Boivin '09 regarding Fools on the Hill, Reisman regarding Two Drink Minimum or McCarthy regarding Beyond Therapy.

Comedian KT Tatara to push boundaries

BY MATT CROWLEY
Staff Writer

KT Tatara, who will perform in the Peirce Pub on Sat. Jan. 24 at 9:00 p.m., has been performing stand-up comedy since his senior year in college.

"I was a music major in college [at West Virginia University]," said Tatara, "but in the last semester I decided I wanted to do something else."

"I took a lot of electives, including a stand-up comedy workshop. That culminated in a performance. I really liked doing it, so after I graduated I pursued it. I did as many shows as possible. Now, eight and a half years later, I'm still performing."

Currently based in Los Angeles, Tatara has made people laugh for those eight and a half years in a wide variety of venues nationwide. "I've performed all over, in 47 states," said Tatara. "I've been in colleges across the country, comedy clubs in New York City and Los Angeles and the Just for Laughs festival in Canada."

At twenty-nine years old, the comedian has been featured on the Comedy Central program "Live At Gotham," as well as ABC Family's "Greek,"

FX's "Dirt" and numerous satellite radio shows. Coming up later this year for the comic is the new Showtime program "Live Nude Comedy."

"It features comic and burlesque performances," said Tatara, who added, "I don't get naked."

Tatara doesn't think of himself as a particular kind of comedian. His comedic style is wide-ranging, drawing from personal experience, observations on daily life and a variety of other sources. He'll tell pretty much any kind of joke—as long as it's funny. "I do some silly jokes, some political jokes, some social commentary," said Tatara. "It can be a lot of different things. Basically, my point of view is that of a young guy with some angst and frustration who's trying to shine some light on things that don't get light shined on them. It's my take on these things, which I think is funny and original."

As for those attending his show on Saturday, Tatara suggests they should expect to enjoy themselves.

"Be prepared and come with an open mind. I push some boundaries; I can say some things people might not be comfortable with. Just come to have a good time."

Pod Profiles



Maggie Taylor '11

"Here Without You"

3 Doors Down

Why: "It's a song I can zone out to when I want to take a break."



Molly Papows '09

"Trouble"

Ray LaMontagne

Why: "It's kind of mellow, with simple guitar. It's good for studying or writing."



Travis Cook '10

"Thundering in the Index"

Evan Hall

Why: "He's a friend of mine. It's cool to hear his voice."

Whether students are working out at the KAC, poring over their books at the library or chilling in their dorms, iPods are a part of this campus. We decided to find out what you are listening to on those little contraptions. As a recurring feature, we will ask three Kenyon students what they are listening to and why.

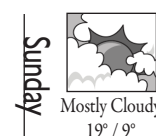
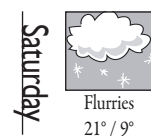
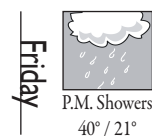
BY NOAH HEINRICH, DESIGN BY DANIEL STREICHER

Lords and Ladies Swimming
Saturday, Jan. 24 at 1:00 p.m.
KAC Natatorium
Kenyon hosts Oakland Grizzlies

Lords Basketball
Saturday, Jan. 24 at 3:00 p.m.
Tomsich Arena
Lords host Wittenberg University

THE KENYON COLLEGIAN SPORTS

Illustrations by Ellie Jabbour Weekend Weather



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Lords basketball's Knight rules court against Allegheny



Knight surges past Allegheny's defenders to look for the open shot.

WESLEY KEYSER

BY JAMES ASIMES
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Jan. 17, the Allegheny College Gators traveled to Tomsich Arena and were welcomed to a showing of one of the best all-around performances of the season by Kenyon College Lords basketball. Led by sophomore guard J.T. Knight, Kenyon drubbed Allegheny 74-51. Knight posted his best offensive performance of the season, beginning the game by making his first four three-point shots in the first four minutes of the opening half, on his way to scoring a career high 30 points, shooting 6 for 10 from three-point range. Knight sparked the Lords to an early 15-5 lead after the opening four minutes, as the Lords increased their lead by 19 points, with a score of 43-24 at the half. He also highlighted his incredible first-half performance by sinking another three-pointer

from beyond 25 feet with a Gator defender draped over him as time expired, sending the Tomsich Arena crowd into a frenzied state. This dagger by Knight seemed to deflate any chance for an Allegheny comeback in the second half, as Kenyon came out with the same intensity with which they went into the locker room and increased their cushion by as many as 28 points.

The afternoon did not belong to Knight alone. He was helped by a stellar performance from Kenyon's front line, as forward Bryan Yelvington '09 had 18 points and 15 rebounds to go along with five assists and three steals and forward Dave Knapke '10 also posted a double-double with 12 points and ten rebounds. Guard Dave Jolson '09 added seven assists in support as well.

In addition to the great individual offensive performances, the Lords also played solid team

defense, holding the Gators to only 34 percent shooting from the field and garnering a 43-33 rebounding advantage. The rebounding differential closed after the Lords had already sealed the victory, as Allegheny burned their sixth and final timeout with over eight minutes to go in the second half. The Gators did not help their own cause by shooting a measly 36 percent from the free throw line. The Gators attempted a comeback late in the second half; however, the Lords maintained their lead by shooting an above-average 84 percent at the free throw line.

The complete effort by the Lords pushes their record to ten wins and five losses on the season, 4-2 in the North Coast Athletic Conference. Kenyon looks to continue their winning ways this Saturday, Jan. 24 at home against conference foe Wittenberg University at 3:00 p.m. in Tomsich Arena.

Lords and Ladies swimmers work it out

BY KALI GREFF
Sports Editor

Hopping back into the frigid waters of Gambier, the Lords and Ladies swimmers got back at it following their winter break training trip to Sarasota, Fla., with two meets this past weekend.

On Friday, Jan. 16, the Lords and Ladies hit the road to grace the waters of Division II opponent Ashland University, of Ashland, Ohio. The Ladies racked up an overwhelming victory, 148-57, but the Lords did not match the Ladies' example, falling just short of the Eagles, 117-104.

Even though Kenyon was missing some of its big names, individual event wins were turned in by Andrew Butler '11, Daniel Rooker '12, Joseph Pysnik '12 and Dustin Schneider '09 on the Lords side. Butler took the gold in the 1,000-yard freestyle with a time of 9:55.52 and followed suit in the 200-yard breaststroke, punching the wall first to give him a time of 2:12.11. Rooker finished first in the 200-yard freestyle with 1:46.29 as his time, Pysnik in the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 1:56.86 and Schneider with a 2:01.66 in the 200-yard backstroke.

Despite capturing five of 11 events of the day, the Lords could not pull out a win over Ashland, mostly due to the Eagles seizing all of the 18 points from the diving portion of the competition uncontested.

The Ladies, on the other hand, sailed over the Eagles to a nearly effortless victory, capturing the top spots of ten of the 11 events of the day. Among the first-place finishers of the day were Bettina Hahn-Lawson '12 in the 1,000-yard freestyle (10:36.40) and the 500-yard free-

style (5:14.81), Nicole Kett '12 in the 200-yard individual medley (2:12.72), Cat Oliveira '11 in the 200-yard freestyle (1:57.48), Meghan Quinn '12 in the 50-yard freestyle (24.87), Kellyn Caldwell '12 in the 200-yard butterfly (2:10.68), Carolyn Barer '09 in the 200-yard backstroke (2:08.76) and Tracy Menzel '09 in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:26.30).

The Kenyon swimmers barely had time to grab a breath before dashing to the buses again to swim a meet in Pittsburgh, Pa. the next day against the Carnegie Mellon University Tartans. This quick turnover proved to cause no problems for the Lords and Ladies; both teams emerged victorious from the meet, the Lords 141.5-115.5 and the Ladies 174-83.

Matt Harris '09 took both butterfly individual events with a 1:55.49 in the 200 and a 51.25 in the 100. Mike Mpitsos '11 and David Somers '12 also each won two individual events for the Purple Pride.

For the Ladies, Alisa Vereshchagin '12, Dominique Chevalier '12 and Tina Ertel '10 each came out on top in two of their respective individual events. Additionally, Lauren Brady '11, Elizabeth Carlton '09 and Brittany Hurd '09 each walked away with single individual wins of their own. This meet marks the second meet in a row in which the Ladies have defeated their opponent, bringing their overall record to 5-4 and 0-0 in the conference, as they have not faced any of their North Coast Atlantic Conference foes thus yet in the season.

Next the Lords and Ladies host the Division I Oakland University Golden Grizzlies, hailing from Rochester, Mich., in their home waters on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 1:00 p.m.

Ladies Basketball



KATIE FEE

The Ladies basketball team preps to travel to match up away against Oberlin College this Saturday, Jan. 24 after suffering two crushing conference losses this week to Allegheny College and Denison University.



Want to write for
the Collegian?

E-mail

collegian@kenyon.edu